

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /047 W

----- 075347

R 031020Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0687

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

JCS WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 18456

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, TH

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR LETTER OF OFFER, F5E/F AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 206982 (300004Z AUG 75)

1. REQUEST FOR LETTER OF OFFER ON 13 F5E AND 3 F5F AIRCRAFT IS AT THIS POINT PURELY RTAF PROJECT. WHILE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE ACQUISITION OF F5E/F HAS BEEN BRIEFED ORALLY TO MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRAMAN, RTAF HAS NEVER PUT MATTER TO GOVERNMENT FORMALLY AND IN WRITING.

2. IN CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 2 WITH AIR CHIEF MARSHAL KAMON, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, RTAF, KAMON CONFIRMED FOREGOING INFORMATION AND EXPLAINED THAT RTAF IS NOW IN PROCESS OF STUDYING FUTURE AIRCRAFT NEEDS, F5E/F BEING ONE OF U.S. AND FOREIGN AIRCRAFT UNDER CONSIDERATION. WHEN STUDY IS COMPLETED, KAMON SAID MATTER WILL BE PUT TO GOVERNMENT FOR FINAL DECISION.

3. WE EXPLAINED LETTER OF OFFER PROCEDURE TO KAMON AND POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT UPON SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS, LETTER OF OFFER WOULD BECOME PUBLIC AND COULD BE PLAYED BACK IN THAI PRESS. WE  
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ADDED THAT SINCE WE WISHED TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO RTG, WE

WANTED TO ASCERTAIN STATE OF ITS KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PROJECT.  
KAMON ADMITTED THAT APART FROM ORAL BRIEFING OF MOD, RTG  
PROBABLY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD INSURE THAT RTG IS  
ACQUAINTED WITH PROJECT IMMEDIATELY.

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT PROJECT IS IN EARLY STAGES  
AND FUNDING IS FAR FROM ASSURED. WE THINK IT HIGHLY  
UNLIKELY THAT RTG WILL DECIDE TO COMMIT RESOURCES TO  
MODERN FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FOR SOME TIME TO COME. PARTIALLY  
FOR THIS VERY REASON, WE RECOMMEND THAT LETTER OF OFFER  
GO FORWARD. ALTHOUGH THAI PURCHASE OF F5E/F WOULD NOT  
BE A WISE INVESTMENT AT THIS STAGE, RTG WILL IN ALL  
LIKELIHOOD NOT ACCEPT OFFER. FOR U.S. TO REFUSE TO  
MAKE OFFER IN PRINCIPLE WOULD UNNECESSARILY OFFEND THAI ALLY.

5. MOREOVER, IN UNLIKELY EVENT RTG SHOULD DECIDE SOON TO BUY  
MODERN AIRCRAFT, WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF THEY PROCURE FROM  
U.S. RATHER THAN AVAILABLE FOREIGN SOURCES.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO18456  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750304-0231  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750986/aaaacxuj.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 206982  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

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Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR LETTER OF OFFER, F5E/F AIRCRAFT  
**TAGS:** MASS, TH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006